

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

July 7, 2014 to July 14, 2014

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal action to determine whether it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to implement Framework Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region (CMP Framework Amendment 1). The CMP Framework Amendment 1 was approved for submission to the Secretary of Commerce by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at its March 2014 meeting and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at its April 2014 meeting. CMP Framework Amendment 1 proposes to modify the annual catch limits (ACLs) for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) migratory group Spanish mackerel based on the outcome of stock assessments (SEDAR 28 2013), and recommendations for acceptable biological catch values from the South Atlantic and Gulf Council's Scientific and Statistical Committees. Based on the preferred alternatives, ACLs would increase for both the Atlantic and Gulf migratory groups of Spanish mackerel. The amendment also proposes to update the optimum yield and recreational annual catch target for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel. NMFS finds that the actions contained in the CMP Framework Amendment 1 would not interfere with, modify, or damage the value or functions of Virginia's coastal habitats or coastal waters. Furthermore, NMFS believes that modification of the ACL based on revised stock assessments would lead to better management of fisheries and does not conflict with any Coastal Zone Management statutes or policies implemented by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Accordingly, NMFS has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination (FCD) that finds the proposed project consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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